



Sept 2026

4-H Happenings

Welcome to 4-H !

4-H supports classroom learning through hands-on activities and contests. **No dues.** We visit classrooms **once per month during the school day.**

Who can join: Youth in **grades 4-12** may participate in county 4-H opportunities.

Monthly Contests (optional; due at your 4-H meeting): Oct—4-H Poster | Nov—4-H Speech | Jan—Piggy Bank | Feb—Demonstration | Mar—Photography | Apr—June Dairy Month Poster

Watch for newsletters throughout the year and let us know if your child is interested in specific activities.



Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 29	4-H Honor Club
Oct. 5-9	Fall Break (Schools Closed)
Oct. 10	Shooting Sports Preview Day
Oct. 28	Portfolio Workshop
Nov. 2-3	Schools Closed
Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Break (Schools Closed)
Nov. 18	Portfolio Workshop
Dec. 21-Jan. 5	Winter Break (Schools Closed)

Portfolio Workshops: (Drop-In)

When: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 3-5 PM

Where: Extension Office

What is a 4-H Portfolio?

It is a simple way to track your projects, leadership, and service over the year. It can include:

- Project goals and what you learned
- Photos of contests/activities
- Awards or certificates
- Community service and leadership roles
- A short reflection (what went well, what you'd change next time)

Why do one? Portfolios help when applying for camps, conferences, awards, and scholarships—and they're a great record of growth.

Portfolio Workshops: Bring anything you already have (photos, ribbons, notes). **If you have a computer/laptop available, please bring it** to help you organize and work on your portfolio during the workshop. We'll help you get started and stay on track.

4-H Poster Contest

Help promote 4-H by making and entering the 4-H Poster Art Contest. You will turn your poster in at your 4-H meeting on _____.

Rules are as follows:

- ✓ Posters made by an individual youth (Grades 4-12).
- ✓ Posters must be **HORIZONTAL** only.
- ✓ Posters must be **14"x 22"** (half a sheet of poster board).
- ✓ On the back of the poster include:
Your name, school, grade, teacher, address, and age.
- ✓ 4-H is to be the topic for the poster. It should have a short, catchy title or theme and artwork to illustrate your idea. Include at least one 4-H (clover) emblem.
- ✓ Well known cartoon figures cannot be used because they are copyrighted - such as Marvel Super Heroes, Disney characters, Ninja Turtles, Lego characters, etc.
- ✓ 3D objects or materials (foam letters, stickers, etc.) cannot extend more than a nickel or 1/8" above the surface of the poster.
- ✓ DO NOT use glitter.

Entries not following the rules above are not eligible for the regional contest.

One poster from each classroom will be sent to the county contest. Three winners will be selected from the county posters to be entered in the regional contest.

4-H Honor Club

Where: 4-H Office

When: First Tuesday each month | 6:00-7:00



Honor Club is open to all 4-H members in grades 6-12 - even if we don't see you during the in-school meeting.

Honor Club members get the opportunity to meet 1 time a month and complete leadership & service learning activities as well as participate in fun social events. Join us for our next meeting!

Contact Us

UT/TSU Extension Hamblen County 4-H | 423-586-6111 | hamblen.Tennessee.edu | @UTExtensionHamblenCounty
Elizabeth Hobbs (edoan@utk.edu) • Ronda Southerland (rsouthe1@utk.edu) | 511 W. 2nd North St., Room 204



4-H Judging & Skill Teams

Judging Teams:

- Livestock
 - Contest in March
 - Topics: how to evaluate livestock classes- beef cattle, swine, sheep and meat goats, how to defend placings (oral reasons)
- Horse
 - Contest in April
 - Topics: how to evaluate conformation, performance, how to defend placings (oral reasons)
- Poultry
 - Contest in September
 - Topics: evaluate post production hens, chicken parts ID, egg candling, egg quality, part quality
- Land
 - Contest in October
 - Topics: soil and water conservation, characteristics of soil

Skill Teams:

- Grill Masters
 - Contest in August
 - Topics: fire safety, safe food handling, proper grilling techniques
- Horse Bowl & Hippology
 - Contest in January
 - Topics: horse knowledge, industry knowledge, application of knowledge all in a competitive format

Other opportunities:

Wildlife evaluation, Forestry, FCS Skill-a-thon, Consumer Decision Making

Volunteer Opportunities **VOLUNTEER Needed!**

Parents & Caring Adults Welcome

The most successful 4-H members have support from a parent or another caring adult. If you can help in any way – big or small – we would love to have you involved.

Ways to help:

- Assist with a project group or special event
- Share a skill/hobby (photography, wildlife, crafts, gardening, etc.)
- Help with supplies set-up, or communication
- Serve as an adult or teen leader

Interested in becoming an official 4-H volunteer?

Contact the 4-H office to start the volunteer enrollment process: 423-586-6111 | edoan@utk.edu | rsouthel@utk.edu

2026-27

4-H Shooting Sports



Hamblen County Shooting Sports is hosting a Preview Day for youth and parents interested in participating. Information will be provided for each discipline.

Disciplines offered: Air rifle • Archery • BB • Shotgun (trap)

Where: Morristown Trap Club

Who: Grades 4-12

When: October 10, 2026 3:00pm-5:00pm

Fee: Preview Day is free
(program participation is fee-based.)



Questions: Contact Elizabeth at edoan@utk.edu or 423-586-6111

4-H Animal Project Groups

Groups to Consider:

- ✓ Horse Group
 - ❖ Hands on learning about anatomy, physiology & health of horses.
 - ❖ **First farm meeting:** Sept. 14 | 6-7pm
Location: 963 Baker Rd, New Market
 - ❖ Additional meetings - Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14
- ✓ Livestock Group
 - ❖ Classroom and farm activities to build animal skills and explore animal-related careers.
 - ❖ **First meeting:** Oct. 1 | 6-7 pm
Location: Martin Luther King, Jr Park

4-H Virtual Project Groups

ALL VIRTUAL REGISTRATIONS DUE BY OCTOBER 30

Virtual Entomology & Beekeeping (Grades 4-12 as of Jan. 1, 2026)

Topics: insect basics/body parts, pollinators & castes, diversity & communication, integrated pest management

- Meets: 1st Thursday each month (except October)
- First meeting: Oct. 8 | 7:00-8:00 pm EST
- Register: <https://tiny.utk.edu/Virtual-Entomology-Beekeeping>

Virtual Creative Arts and Design (Grades 6-8 as of Jan. 1, 2026)

Topics: jewelry, holiday crafts, pottery studio tour, watercolor Zentangle.

- Meets: 3rd Tuesday each month (except January)
- First meeting: Oct. 20 | 7:00-8:00 pm EST
- First meeting Tuesday, October 21
- Participants purchase supplies as needed
- Register at <https://tiny.utk.edu/VirtualCreativeArts>

